
Wisconsin Forestry Notes

June 2003

Wisconsin DNR - Division of Forestry

2003 gypsy moth spraying begins

The suppression program treats areas threatened with defoliation by gypsy moths. DNR treats only areas as requested and paid for by communities and landowners.

Aerial spraying to suppress gypsy moth outbreaks began May 21 and will continue through the first week of June. A total of 26,559 acres in 16 counties on 178 different sites will receive suppression treatments. Most sites will be treated with the bacterial insecticide *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *kurstaki* (Btk). Btk has a short active life of 7-11 days and only affects caterpillars. In areas where rare or endangered butterflies or moths are present, the gypsy moth specific viral insecticide Nucleopolyhedrosis virus (Gypchek) is used. Neither insecticide has an effect on people, pets, livestock, wild animals, birds or fish.

The suppression program treats areas threatened with defoliation by gypsy moth at the request of communities and landowners. The program is voluntary and the community or landowners pay for part of the treatment. The DNR applies for reimbursement of the other part of the cost of treatment and associated preparatory work. [Maps of the spray sites](#) being treated this spring are on the forestry section of the DNR Website. You can also find online information about the [insecticides used for the gypsy moth treatments](#).

Most sites are treated with a bacterial insecticide known as Btk that has no affect on people, pets, livestock, wild animals, birds or fish.

Because the suppression program only treats where the service is requested and paid for, not all areas threatened with defoliation by gypsy moth outbreaks will be sprayed. Gypsy moth populations are expected to be high and capable of stripping trees of foliage in most of Marinette, the northern half of Oconto, and eastern Menominee counties. Widespread defoliation is also possible in eastern Portage, western Waupaca and Waushara counties. Scattered patches of defoliation are likely in Brown, lower Door, Washington, Waukesha, Ozaukee, and Milwaukee counties. We expect to start seeing defoliation late in June with damage peaking in early July. Most trees are able to withstand one year of complete defoliation and will start producing a new set of leaves late in July.

Spraying is also being done in central and western Wisconsin to slow the spread of gypsy moth. This effort is administered by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection. Information about the [“Slow the Spread”](#) program is available on their Website.

For more information, contact [Andrea Diss](#) at 608-264-9247

DNR Forester is top arson investigator

In a typical year, about 10% of Wisconsin wild-fires are started by arsonists.

A DNR forestry team leader is being honored as “Arson Investigator of the Year” by Wisconsin Chapter 25 of the International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI). DNR’s Cole Couvillion of Wausaukee will receive the award at the IAAI statewide meeting in Stevens Point on June 4th. The award recognizes his successful investigation and prosecution of a serial arsonist in Marinette County.

National Forest plan revision moves ahead

The comment period is now open for the proposed plan that would guide management of the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest for the next 10-15 years. The National Forest includes 10% of the forest land in Wisconsin.

After several years in development, the proposed Land and Resource Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for Wisconsin's only National Forest is open for comment. This document will guide the management of the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest (CNNF) for the next 10 to 15 years. The comment period ends July 11, 2003. DNR Forestry has been leading an interdisciplinary DNR team that has been meeting with the Forest Service for over a year on the Plan revision. They are now in the process of drafting a unified DNR response to the proposed plan and DEIS. The DNR comments will aid the Forest Service in determining the need for change to the draft documents. The proximity of the CNNF to our State and County Forests makes management activities on the National Forest critically important. Management of all of Wisconsin's publicly-owned forests must be compatible and complementary in order to sustainably provide the desired benefits from our forests. For more information about the proposed Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest plan revision and draft Environmental Impact Statement or instructions on how to submit comments to the USDA Forest Service, visit their [Website](#).

For further information on the DNR comments to the National Forest Plan contact [Jeff Barkley](#) at 608-264-9217

Availability of tree seedlings important

Wisconsin's State Forest Nursery program and private tree nurseries together produce millions of seedlings annually for reforestation and conservation purposes in Wisconsin. These small tree seedlings make a big difference in our environment; by enhancing wildlife habitat, restoring rare ecosystems, conserving energy, reducing soil erosion, improving water quality, increasing aesthetic beauty, and providing the future raw materials necessary for a strong forest products industry.

During the 2003 spring season, the State Forest Nursery system produced and distributed 15,669,000 native tree and shrub seedlings for reforestation and conservation in Wisconsin. Private and industrial nurseries produced approximately 3-5 million additional tree seedlings in 2003. This combined public and private effort accounted for approximately 25,000 acres reforested in Wisconsin this year! Although most forests reproduce (regenerate) naturally after a harvest through seeds, roots sprouts and/or stump sprouts, tree planting remains a key component of sustainable forest management in Wisconsin. State and private nurseries ensure an adequate supply of seedlings for private landowners to use for reforestation and converting agricultural lands to forests.

For further information on the state forest nursery program, contact [Greg Edge](#) at 608-785-9011.

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